ing strychnine) has been found very useful in killing the fishes of these pools, often not to be captured in any other way. Mr. Greeley found a good substitute for this poison in the commercial chloride of lime.

D. S. J.

**Development of Brain Structures in Amia.** — A. C. Eyclesheimer and B. M. Davis give in the *Journal of Comparative Neurology* a valuable study of "The Early Development of the Epiphysis and Paraphysis in Amia." The paper indicates that much is still to be known as to the origin of epiphysial outgrowths from brain structures.

D. S. J.

**Scapanorhynchus and Mitsukurina.** — In the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, Mr. A. S. Woodward, of the British Museum, has a note on *Mitsukurina owstoni* Jordan, an extraordinary lamnoid shark with a long flat blade on its snout, lately described from the deep waters of Japan.

Mr. Woodward shows that Mitsukurina is very closely related to the Cretaceous genus Scapanorhynchus, of which species are known from Mount Lebanon and from the chalk of England.

Mitsukurina and Scapanorhynchus agree in the elongate, blade-like snout, which is, however, longest in Scapanorhynchus. The skeleton, dentition, and gill openings seem to be similar in the two genera, and there appear to be no great differences in the fins. The dense shagreen is also similar in the two; the structure of the basal cartilages of the fins in Scapanorhynchus is unknown; nor is anything known of the claspers.

Mr. Woodward concludes that Mitsukurina is probably identical with his genus, Scapanorhynchus, this name being of prior date. On the other hand, it may be urged that this identity is not proved, and that the specific differences are considerable. There are great disadvantages in the identification of recent fishes with fossil genera which are more or less imperfectly known.

More complete knowledge of the extinct forms often shows that the recent species have undergone such differentiation as should constitute generic difference. I think it, therefore, better to retain for the recent shark the name Mitsukurina, although recognizing its close relationship to its Cretaceous homologue.

The family Mitsukurinidæ is supposed to differ from Carchariidæ (Odontaspididæ) in the presence of a Polyodon-like snout, and perhaps in the structure of its fins and claspers. The writer knows too